

WORK FIRST PERFORMANCE GOALS

SFY 2002-2003

I. Meeting all Parent and Two-Parent Federal Participation Rate

The all-parent participation rate requirement is 50% for FFY 2003 and the two-parent participation rate requirement is 90%.

States have no control over the work participation rate goals. They are contained in the federal regulations for TANF published by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services.

II. Reducing the Work First Caseload

The Work First Caseload goal for statewide and county-by-county caseload reduction was calculated using the average monthly unemployment rates for SFY 2000 and SFY 2001. The Work First caseload was monitored carefully over the year, and caseload size was analyzed in relation to economic conditions at the end of the state fiscal year 2001-2002 and adjustments were made.

III. Adults Entering Employment

The employment goal was established by using the actual average first of month adult caseload for 2001-2002, then determining what economic tier designation was assigned to each county. The staff then used the actual number of adults who entered employment in 2001-2002 and computed the percentage of able-bodied adults who entered employment. Considering that the caseload is composed of adults who may present multiple barriers and require longer to attain employment, it was decided to set the percentage to enter employment to begin at 75% for Tier 5 counties (least disadvantaged) and to end at 71% for Tier 1 counties (most disadvantaged). This goal will be tracked by using the E&T indicator from EIS and will be an unduplicated count of adults who have a 1 or 3 entered into that field in the Eligibility Information System (EIS) to indicate employment.

IV. Staying off Welfare after Going to Work

This goal will track the number of families who leave Work First because of earnings, using the appropriate codes (65, 19, 5M, 1K, 6U or 34) for transfer to Medicaid. We will search the EIS tables for these families to determine if they have returned to Work First in the report month one year following their exit from Work First cash assistance.

V. Increasing Child Support Collections and Orders

To determine the goal for Child Support collections, the annual TANF and former TANF collections for 2001-2002 were increased by the 4%. The report reflects the actual TANF and former TANF child support collections.

The number of TANF cases under order as of June 2002 is the base month used in determining the goal. The goal was established by increasing this total by 3%.

The data for each of these goals will come from the ACTS system.

The ability/inability of each county to achieve the established goals can be attributed to various reasons. For example, a high performing county may have a more difficult time increasing collections than a county at a lower performance level. The ability of a county to meet these specific goals does not necessarily reflect on the counties overall performance and ability to provide child support services.

VI. Avoiding Dependency through Benefit Diversion

Counties have provided Benefit Diversion payments to an increasing number of families each year. Based on the rate of increase in providing diversion payments, the statewide goal will remain 12,000 for 2002-2003. Each month we will search the EIS system and sum the number of applications entered into EIS for the month with an A9 disposition, indicating Benefit Diversion Payment to the family.

VII. Providing Employment Services

This goal addresses the number of adults in the Work First caseload who are actively receiving intensive employment services. This is indicated by an individual having hours of activities scheduled in the EPIS system for a given month. Because Work First policy provides for a three month period following initial application approval before adults must participate in work or work-related activities, we will begin looking for adults in the first month that they are active in Work First, but an adult will not be in the "denominator" during the first three months of Work First unless they are also in the "numerator". This means hours of activities, including assessment, are scheduled in EPIS. Beginning with the fourth month of participation, we will search EPIS for each case containing adults to determine if hours of activity are scheduled.

Because of the federal requirement to meet a 50% all-parent rate and a 90% two-parent participation rate, counties need to be working with at least 75% of the single adult caseload and 100% of the two-parent caseload for scheduling activities to prepare adults for self-sufficiency.

VIII. Employment Retention

Each month a file will be transmitted to the Employment Security Commission containing the Social Security Numbers of adults who left Work First one year ago for excess earnings (using the codes entered into EIS for transfer to Medicaid or case termination). ESC will match the Social Security numbers with their wage files for the second quarter and fourth quarter following the report month to determine if they had earnings in the sixth month and 12th month following exit. The goal is to have 60% retention at six months and 50% retention at 12 months.